



Kentucky General Assembly 2009 Regular Session

Senate Bill 1 “An Act Relating to Education Assessment”

Senate Bill 1 is a significant piece of education legislation that revises the assessment and accountability system for K-12 education in Kentucky. It calls for a revision of standards to be based on national and international benchmarks in order to increase the rigor of K-12 education and increase the number of students that are college ready. Several key items related to postsecondary education include but are not limited to:

1. Within 30 days of the effective date of the act, March 26, 2009, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), in collaboration with the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), is directed to plan and implement a comprehensive process for revising standards in all areas. A draft of that plan has been distributed. (Section 2(2)(a))
2. This revision process is to include practicing K-12 teachers and content faculty and staff from postsecondary institutions. Business and industry professionals are also to be included. (Section 2(2)(c))
3. The Commissioner of Education and the President of the Council shall ensure that the revised standards that are recommended to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) for approval are aligned with postsecondary education course and assessment standards for reading and mathematics. (Section 2(2)(f))
4. All revisions to the standards are to be submitted to KBE by December 15, 2010 and disseminated by January 15, 2011. Mathematics standards must be completed by December 15, 2009. (Section 2(2)(g)(3))
5. The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB), in cooperation with KDE and CPE, shall coordinate information and training sessions for faculty and staff in all of the teacher preparation programs in the use of the revised standards. EPSB shall ensure that each teacher preparation program includes use of the revised standards in their pre-service education programs. (Section 2(2)(i))
6. CPE, in cooperation with KDE and the postsecondary institutions, shall coordinate information sessions regarding academic content standards for faculty who teach in the various content areas. (Section 2(2)(j))
7. CPE shall, in consultation with KDE, KBE, and the postsecondary institutions, assure that the academic content requirements for successful entry into postsecondary education programs are aligned with high school content standards and that students who master the high school academic content standards shall not need remedial courses. (Section 13(35)(a))

8. Within 30 days from the effective date of the act, each postsecondary institution shall plan and implement a process to develop core academic content standards for reading and mathematics for introductory courses. The draft comprehensive plan encompasses this process. The plan calls for the inclusion of secondary educators to ensure vertical alignment between high school courses and introductory college courses. CPE, KDE, and the postsecondary institutions are to work collaboratively on this process. (Section 15(1)-(3))
9. CPE, KDE, and KBE are directed to develop a unified strategy to reduce college remediation rates by at least 50% by 2014 from what they are in 2010 and increase the college completion rates of students enrolled in one or more remedial classes by 3% annually from 2009 to 2014. A written plan shall be prepared no later than May 15, 2010 and submitted to the Interim Joint Committee on Education and the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue. (Section 19(1)-(3))

It should be noted that several key areas of the KDE assessment statutes were not changed, including the requirement that:

- A college readiness exam will be administered in grade 8 (or 9), grade 10, and the ACT in grade 11.
- The system-wide standards established by CPE for entry into credit-bearing coursework at a postsecondary institution remain as defined by 13 KAR 2:020.